

# Al-Andalus



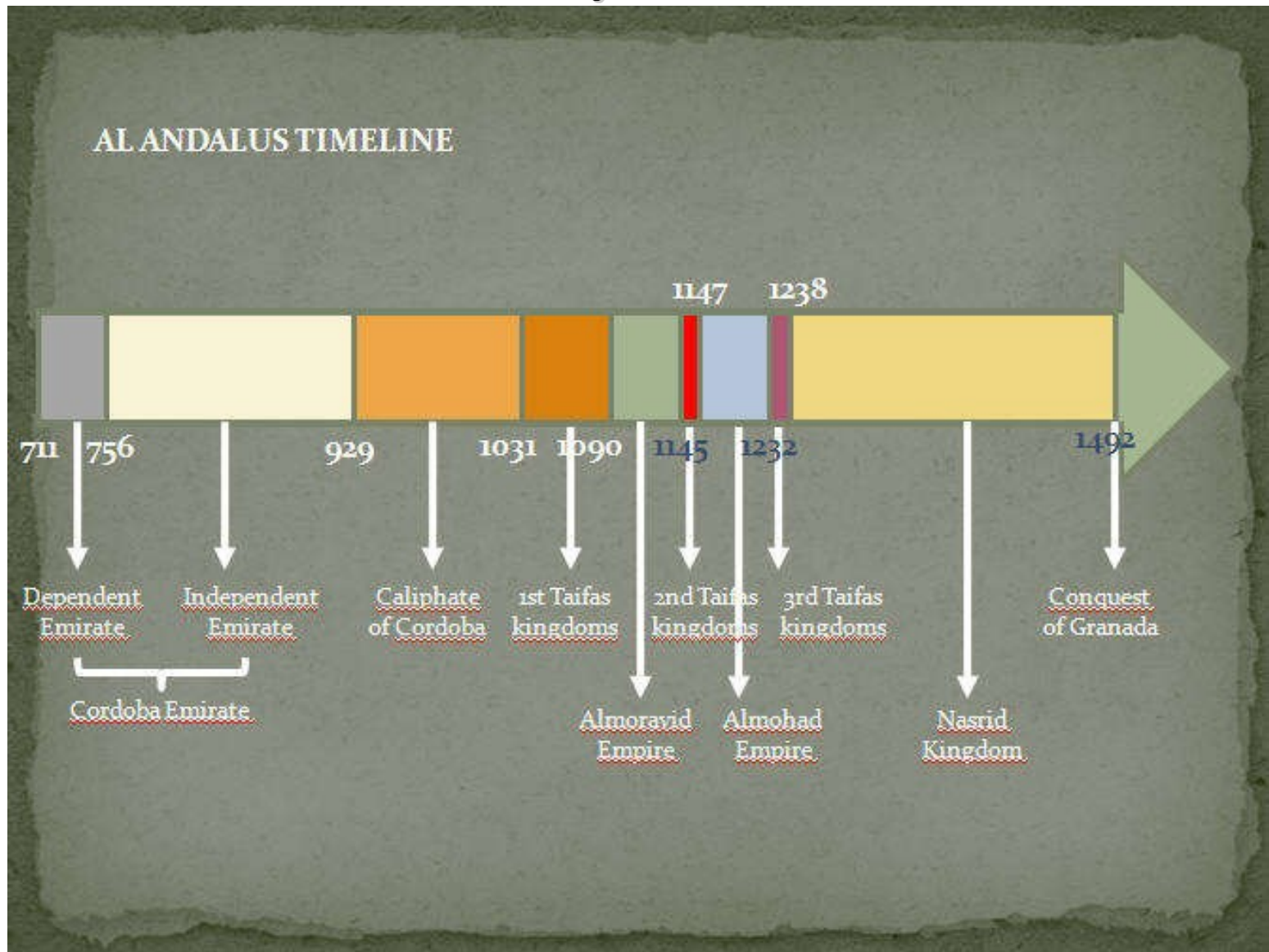
# What was Al-Andalus?

- Al-Andalus was the name the Muslims gave to the territories they conquered in the Iberian Peninsula. The conquest of Al-Andalus began in the year 711.
- Before the Muslim's arrival, the visigoths ruled the Iberian Peninsula.
- The Muslims conquered all of the Peninsula except for the Asturian kingdom.
- The capital was moved from Toledo to Cordoba.



\*rule - gobernar    \*move - trasladar

# Phases in the history of Al-Andalus





# Life in Al-Andalus

The main economic activities in Al-Andalus were:

- In the country, agriculture and stockbreeding.
- In the cities, trade and crafting.



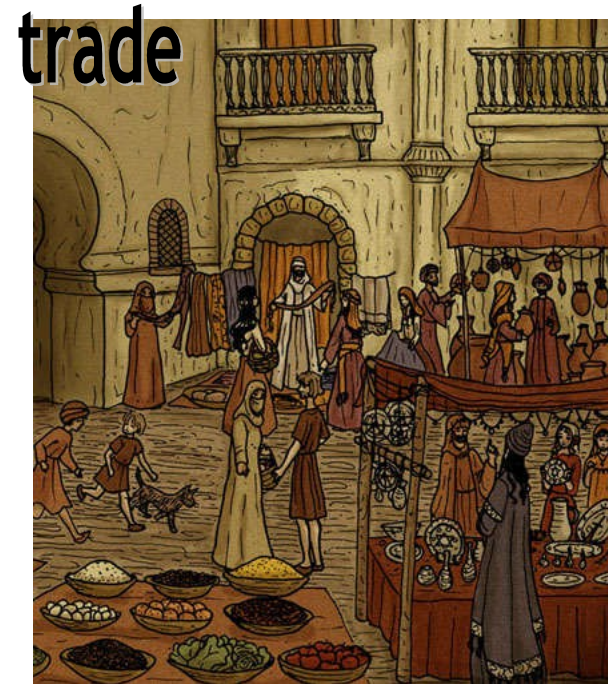
agriculture



crafting



stockbreeding

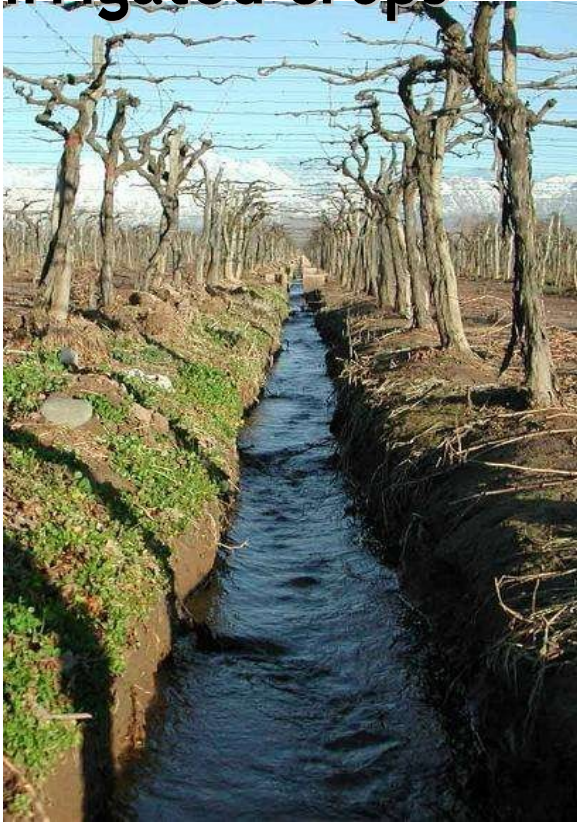


trade



- Most people were farmers.
- Irrigated crops became very important and new crops were introduced: cotton, rice, oranges...

## irrigated crops



cotton



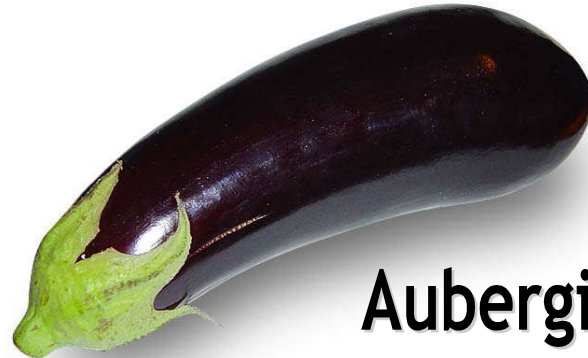
Rice



Sugar, aubergines and artichokes were some other crops cultivated.



**Sugar**



**Aubergine**

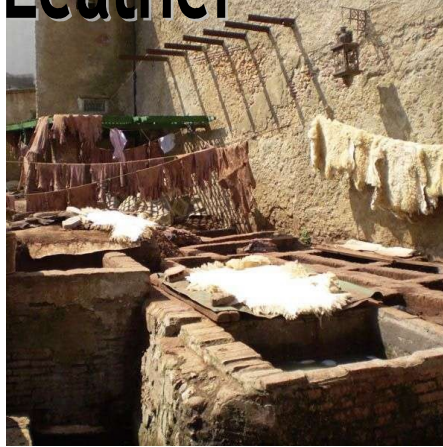


**Artichokes**

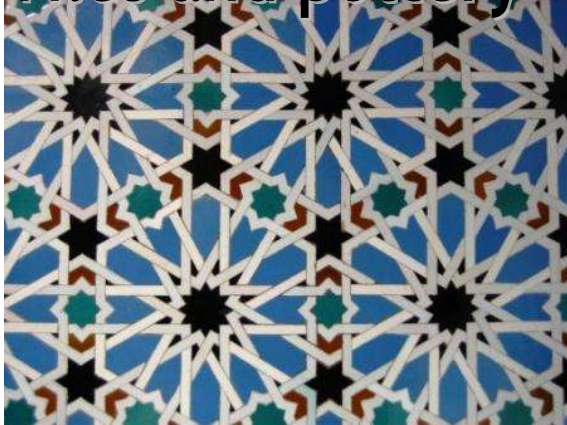


High quality craft products were made by artisans in cities.

## Leather



## Tiles and pottery



## Jewellery



## Colourful clothes



## Weapons



Al-Andalus was an active market. They sold all the crafting objects they produced and exchanged them for slaves and gold. As coins they used the dinar and the direm.



**Dinar**



**Direm**





# Cities

- The cities were equipped with public lighting, sewers, public baths, libraries, universities, etc. They were much more advanced than other cities in Northern Europe.
- The centre of the cities was the Medina (al-Madinat) that was always characterized by its narrow, windy, streets.
- The Medina, known in Spanish as Zoco, housed the main market, public bathes (Hamams), Mosques and in larger cities, the university (Madraza).
- The districts tended to be inhabited by people of the same of the trade or the same religion.
- The civil and military authorities, along with their families lived within the Alcazaba - fortress - an independent, walled section that was equipped with its own services. Although near, it was never 'part' of the city itself.



\*sewers - alcantarillas

# Hamams

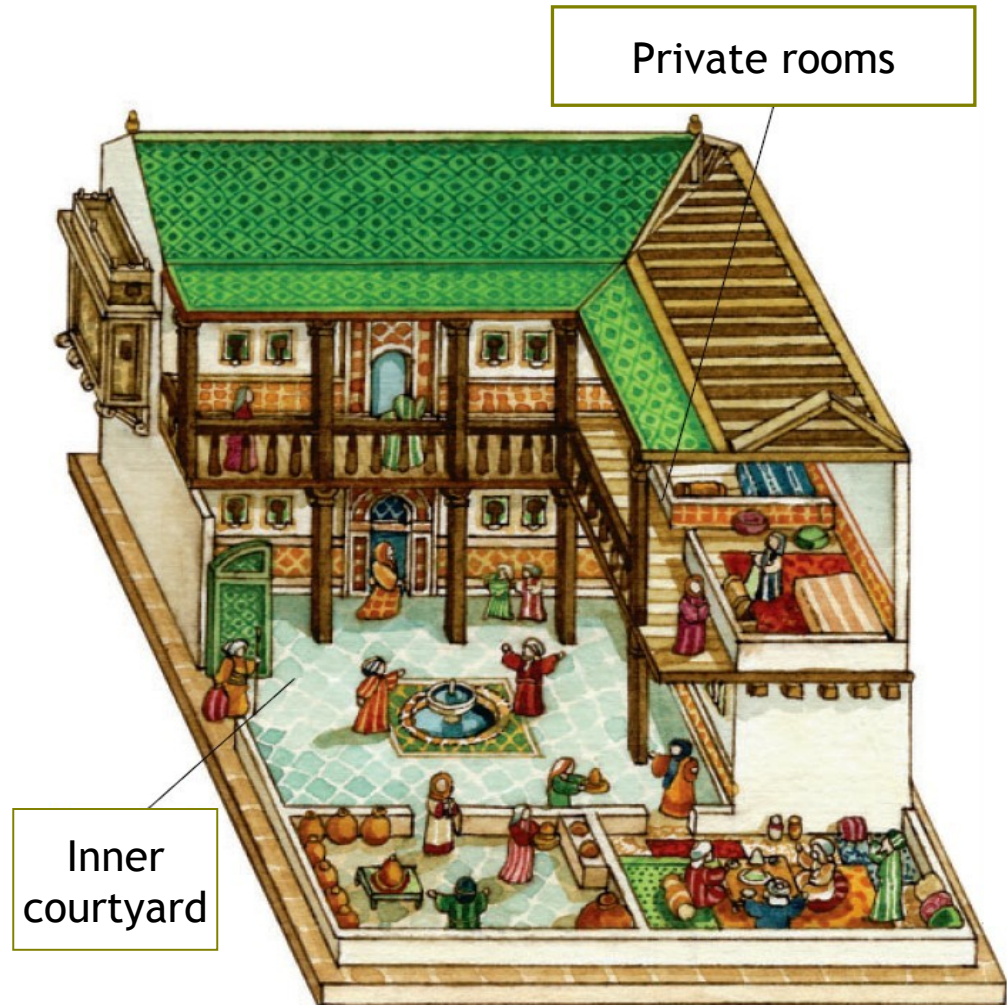
A lot of emphasis was played on hygiene and cleanliness. Each district within a town had its own Hamam or public bath. There were over 600 in Cordoba.

The Hamams also played an important part in the social fabric of the society and were used as meeting points and places of relaxation. The mornings were for the men, while the afternoons tended to be for woman and children.





# Rich families' houses



The Moors liked their privacy. They usually lived one family per house and the house was back from the road to avoid noise. The patio was the central part with the bedrooms, barn, kitchen and toilet all having access to it.



We can still see the influence of Arabs on Andalusian houses nowadays.



Alpujarra, Granada



Courtyard in a house, Cordoba



# Religion in Al-Andalus



In the first centuries of Islamic domination there was **pacific coexistence** between **Muslim, Christians and Jews**.

Around 50% of the local population were Muslims in the 10th century and by the end of the 12th century the figure was closer to 90%.

The domination of the Almoravids and Almohades (11th and 12th centuries) was not good and things began to change, non-Islamics started to be prosecuted and Jews and Christians who refused to convert to Islam were deported. It was a time of **religious intolerance**.



\*figure - cifra

# The fall of Al-Andalus



After the battle of *las Navas de Tolosa* (1212), only a **small part** of the Al-Andalus survived: the **Nasrid kingdom of Granada**

The Nasrid Kingdom lasted more than two centuries, but it had to pay tributes to the Castilian kingdom, and to collaborate with it. During that time the “Nasrid Palaces” were built in Granada.





# The Fall of Granada

On January 2, 1492, the last Muslim ruler in Iberia, Emir Muhammad XII, known as Boabdil to the Spanish, surrendered to Ferdinand II and Isabella I, *Los Reyes Católicos* ('The Catholic Monarchs'), after the last battle of the Granada War.

The 1492 surrender of the Islamic Emirate of Granada to the Catholic Monarchs is one of the most important events in Granada's history. It means the completion of the Reconquista of Al-Andalus.

\*ruler -  
gobernante  
\*surrender-  
rendición,  
capitulación



*The Surrender of Granada in 1492 by Francisco Pradilla y Ortiz*

# Boabdil's tears

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It was really difficult for Boabdil to leave Granada. The legend says that when he was leaving the city riding his horse, he looked at the Alhambra and the green valley for the last time and he cried. His mother approached him and told him:

**“Weep like a woman for what you could not defend as a man.”**

\*tears - lágrimas

\*weep - llorar

\*farewell- despedida



The farewells of King Boabdil at Granada



# References

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